

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN  
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

JAMES CARRODINE,

Petitioner,

v.

Civil No. 2:11-15587  
HONORABLE VICTORIA A. ROBERTS  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

KENNETH ROMANOWSKI,

Respondent,

/

**ORDER DENYING THE MOTION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL**

Before the Court is habeas petitioner James Carrodine's motion for the appointment of counsel.

The Court will deny the motion for the appointment of counsel. There is no constitutional right to counsel in habeas proceedings. *Cobas v. Burgess*, 306 F. 3d 441, 444 (6<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2002). The decision to appoint counsel for a federal habeas petitioner is within the discretion of the court and is required only where the interests of justice or due process so require. *Mira v. Marshall*, 806 F. 2d 636, 638 (6<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1986). "Habeas corpus is an extraordinary remedy for unusual cases" and the appointment of counsel is therefore required only if, given the difficulty of the case and petitioner's ability, the petitioner could not obtain justice without an attorney, he could not obtain a lawyer on his own, and he would have a reasonable chance of winning with the assistance of counsel. *See Thirkield v. Pitcher*, 199 F. Supp. 2d 637, 653 (E.D. Mich. 2002). Appointment of

counsel in a habeas proceeding is mandatory only if the district court determines that an evidentiary hearing is required. *Lemeshko v. Wrona*, 325 F. Supp. 2d 778, 787 (E.D. Mich. 2004). If no evidentiary hearing is necessary, the appointment of counsel in a habeas case remains discretionary. *Id.*

Counsel may be appointed, in exceptional cases, for a prisoner appearing *pro se* in a habeas action. *Lemeshko*, 325 F. Supp. 2d at 788. The exceptional circumstances justifying the appointment of counsel to represent a prisoner acting *pro se* in a habeas action occur where a petitioner has made a colorable claim, but lacks the means to adequately investigate, prepare, or present the claim. *Id.*

Petitioner has filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus, in which he raises six claims for relief. Petitioner has also attached to his petition his forty two page application for leave to appeal to the Michigan Supreme Court, in which he makes arguments in support of his claims and cites to numerous federal and state cases. Petitioner has also attached numerous additional exhibits to his petition. Petitioner therefore has the means and ability to present his claims to the court. Furthermore, until this Court reviews the pleadings filed by Petitioner and Respondent and the Rule 5 materials, the Court is unable to determine whether an evidentiary hearing is necessary or required. Thus, the interests of justice at this point in time do not require appointment of counsel. 18 U.S.C. § 3006A(a)(2)(B); 28 U.S.C. foll. § 2254, Rules 6(a) and 8(c).

Accordingly, the Court **DENIES** the motion for appointment of counsel without prejudice. The Court will reconsider the motion if, following receipt of the responsive

pleadings and Rule 5 materials, the court determines that appointment of counsel is necessary.

**ORDER**

Based upon the foregoing, the motion for appointment of counsel [Dkt. # 9] is  
**DENIED.**

**S/Victoria A. Roberts**  
**HONORABLE VICTORIA A. ROBERTS**  
**UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE**

**DATED:** 7/20/2012